

# Thompson River Road Environmental Impact Statement



# Why is this road being studied for improvements?

Lolo National Forest, Sanders County, and Flathead County jointly proposed the Thompson River Road Project during the 1999 call for projects. The Montana Tri-Agency group—the Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Lolo National Forest (LNF) and the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)—added the project onto the Forest Highway Program in 2000.



The route is designated as Forest Highway Route 56, a Forest Service major collector road that provides access to the west half of the Lolo National Forest. It is also designated as Montana Forest Development Road 56.

The proposal noted improvements needed in the following areas:

- Improved access to Forest Service, state, and private lands.
- Increased safety of the transportation system.
- Improvement of the water quality and fisheries.
- Consideration for eliminating portions of the dual road network.

# Who is preparing the Environmental Impact Statement ?

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) is designated as the lead agency and is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The WFLHD administers the Federal Lands Highway Program in cooperation with other Federal land managing agencies. These programs provide access to and within national forests, national parks, Indian reservations, and other public lands by preparing plans, letting contracts, supervising construction facilities, and conducting bridge inspections and surveys.

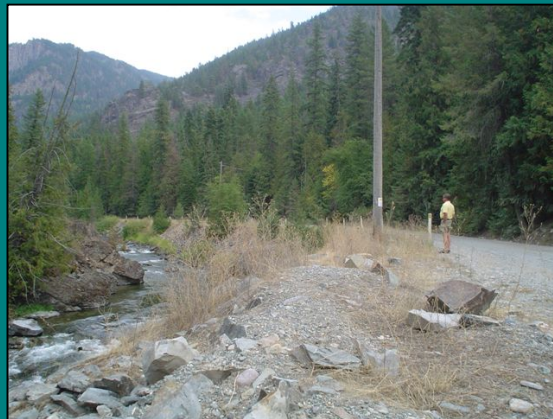




# How long will the EIS study take and how will the public be involved?

The draft Environmental Impact Statement is tentatively scheduled to be published in early 2006.

Numerous public meetings will be conducted and newsletters distributed to make the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process interactive and meaningful. A project website will provide updates. Through this process citizens are better able to communicate with government officials, and in doing so, have the opportunity to influence the outcome of government decisions.



# How can the public provide comments on the project?



If you would like to add your name to our contact list for project updates—or to provide comments on the project—contact us in one of the following ways:

- Call the toll-free Project Information Line: 1-866-667-0868
- Send an email to: [thompsonriverroad@wfl.fha.dot.gov](mailto:thompsonriverroad@wfl.fha.dot.gov)
- Visit the project website beginning December 2003:  
<http://www.thompsonriverroad.org>

# What is the purpose of this meeting?

- To gather comments, issues, and concerns regarding the proposed project.
- To provide the public with basic information on the project: who is preparing the EIS, why, when, and how.
- To provide opportunity for the project team to visit face to face with the community members.

**Please take a few minutes to visit with the project team, view the exhibits and provide written comment.**

**Thank you for coming tonight.**

